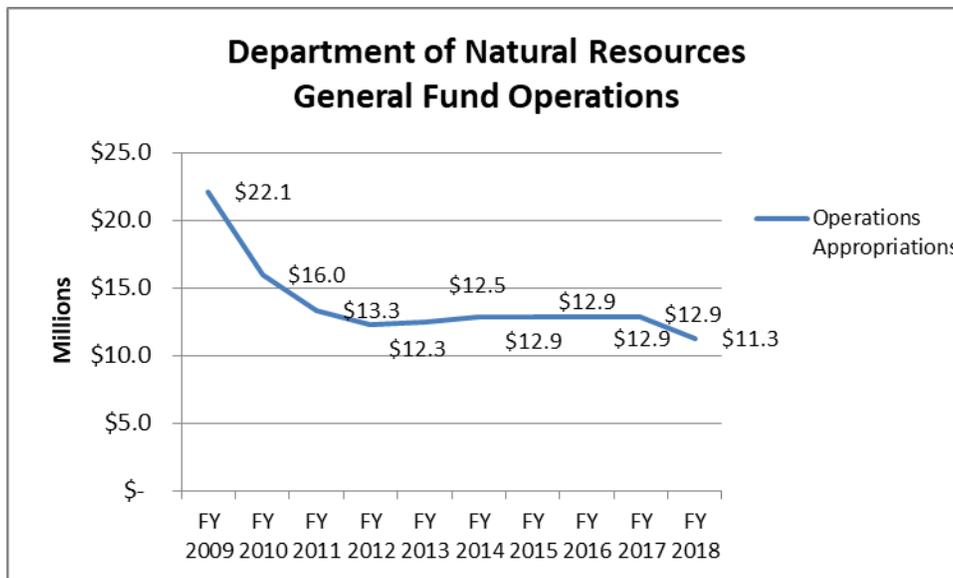




DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES REORGANIZATION

General Fund Reduction. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) announced reductions in staff on July 5, 2017. The reductions were implemented as a result of a reduction in the FY 2018 General Fund appropriation for operations from \$12.9 million in FY 2017 to \$11.3 million in FY 2018. Reductions to the General Fund appropriation for FY 2017 were made in [HF 118](#) (FY 2017 Budget Adjustment Act), and the budget for FY 2018 was finalized in [SF 510](#) (FY 2018 Agriculture and Natural Resources Appropriations Act). The following chart details the General Fund appropriations for FY 2009 through FY 2018:



Department Layoffs. In addition to the General Fund reduction, the Department must also fund salary increases and other expenditures related to employee benefits. To offset the expenditures, the DNR made the following staff changes:

- The State Forester position and the Forestry Bureau were eliminated. The forestry employees who work in the field offices will be transferred to the Wildlife Bureau, and the State Forests and related forestry employees will be transferred to the Parks Bureau.
- The State Geologist position was eliminated. The DNR will contract with the University of Iowa for geological services.
- The AmeriCorps Volunteer Coordinator position was eliminated. AmeriCorps is a federal program that is not included in President Trump’s proposed federal budget for FFY 2018.
- Other positions that were eliminated include the Animal Feeding Operations Coordinator, the Safety Manager, the Art Director of the DNR magazine, and two positions assigned to recreational trails.
- It is estimated that the annual salary and State-paid benefits, such as insurance and retirement expenses, for the eight employees whose positions have been eliminated is approximately \$1.1 million.

Funds for State Parks. [House File 118](#) allows the DNR to use up to \$1.0 million in funds from the Open Spaces Account in the Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) Fund to pay for maintenance at State parks in FY 2017. [Senate File 510](#) allows the DNR to use up to \$288,000 from the Open Spaces Account in REAP for State park maintenance and repair expenditures in FY 2018.

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